

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Office Action of November 30, 2007. Claims 25–55 are cancelled without prejudice. New claims 56–88 are added, and are fully supported by the specification. No new matter is introduced in this Amendment. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 30–35 and 47–55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that claims 25–55 have been cancelled, and replaced by claims 56–88. Independent claim 58 corresponds to original claim 30, as rewritten in independent form. Similarly, new claims 72 and 73 correspond to claims 35 and 47 rewritten in independent form.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 25, 39, 44–46, 48 and 52–53 for various informalities. Applicants note that claims 25–55 have been cancelled, and new claims 56–88 have been corrected and do not include the errors pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants further note that the dash which precedes the number has been retained in new claim 69 (corresponding to original claim 44), as the dash is a "minus" sign necessary to denote a negative temperature of -20°C.

As the new claims do not include the errors pointed out by the Examiner, withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 27 and 38–40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Without acquiescing in the Examiner's characterization of the claims, Applicants note that the claims have been cancelled, and that the new claims have proper antecedent basis. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 25–29 and 36–46 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over *J. Org. Chem.* (1999), p. 1774-1775, and *Org. Letters* (2002), 4(10), p. 1695-1698. The Examiner also indicated that claims 30–35 and 47–55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing in the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference, Applicants note that claims 25–55 have been cancelled. The claims are replaced by new claims 56–88. Independent claim 58 corresponds to original claim 30, as rewritten in independent form. Similarly, new claims 72 and 73 correspond to claims 35 and 47 rewritten in independent form. The other new claims have been written to be properly dependent on the new independent claims.

Applicants submit that the elements of new claims 56–88 are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, the new claims are not obvious, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application with the newly entered claims is now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

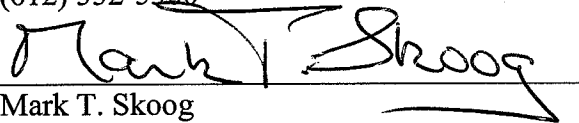
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 30 May '08




Mark T. Skoog
Reg. No. 40,178
MTS:HLV:lk